

Message Text

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15

ORIGIN CPR-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SCA-01

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DRAFTED BY S/CPR:MKEATING:ARA/CAR:TJCHEAVNER:MW

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 299873

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, JM

SUBJECT: RECIPROCITY OF AUTO IMPORT PRIVILEGES: U.S./
JAMAICA

REF: KINGSTON 4719

1. DEPARTMENT DESIRES ASSIST EMBASSY TO FULLEST EXTENT
POSSIBLE, AND COUNTRY DIRECTOR HEAVNER WILL DISCUSS PROBLEM
WITH AMBASSADOR RATTRAY. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT MAKE DEMARCHE
ALONG LINES SUGGESTED PARA 6 REFTEL FOR SEVERAL REASONS.

2. PROBLEM FACED BY EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS IN DISPOSING OF
AUTOMOBILES OBTAINED DUTY- AND/OR TAX-FREE IS NOT UNIQUE IN
THAT MANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS IMPOSE SIMILAR RESTRICTIONS
FOR NATIONAL POLICY REASONS. IT IS CORRECT THAT JAMAICAN
NON-OFFICER STAFF OF EMBASSY AND CONSULAR ESTABLISHMENTS
ARE AUTHORIZED ON BASIS OF RECIPROCITY TO IMPORT ARTICLES
DUTY-FREE DURING ENTIRE PERIOD OF ASSIGNMENT. HOWEVER,
THESE INDIVIDUALS TEND TO USE THIS PRIVILEGE FOR OBTAINING
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND WEARING APPAREL BUT NOT FOR
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IMPORTATION OF AUTOMOBILES, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE AMERICAN

AUTOMOBILES ARE READILY AVAILABLE WITHOUT TAX. THREAT TO CUT OFF DUTY-FREE IMPORT OF AUTOMOBILES ON GROUNDS RECIPROCITY THEREFORE NOT LIKELY IMPRESS GOJ. ALSO LIMITING OUR LEVERAGE IS FACT DUTY-FREE RESALE OF AUTOMOBILES HERE

IS NOT, RPT NOT, CONDITIONED ON RECIPROCITY AS IS DUTY-FREE IMPORT.

3. WE THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY AGAIN APPROACH FOREIGN OFFICE REQUESTING THAT AUTOMOBILE IMPORTATION PRIVILEGES SIMILAR TO THOSE AVAILABLE TO JAMAICAN STAFF HERE BE ACCORDED U.S. STAFF IN KINGSTON. BECAUSE DUTY-FREE SALE OF AUTOMOBILES HERE IS NOT CONDITIONED ON RECIPROCITY, THE EMBASSY SHOULD ONLY STRESS U.S. POLICY IN THIS REGARD IN EFFORTS TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR DUTY- AND TAX-FREE DISPOSITION OF AUTOMOBILES. KISSINGER

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